

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS

1. RECENT DISTURBANCES IN TEXAS AND ILLINOIS HAVE INVOLVED SEVERAL HUNDRED IRANIAN STUDENTS WHOSE STATUS IS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED BY INS. THOSE FOUND OUT OF STATUS ARE SUBJECT TO DEPORTATION HEARINGS AND AS A RESULT DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES RECEIVING INCREASING NUMBER OF ASYLUM REQUESTS VIA INS.

2. MOST SUCH REQUESTS WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY CLAIM OF PROBABLE ARREST, DETENTION AND PERSECUTION ON RETURN TO IRAN BECAUSE OF MEMBERSHIP IN IRANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION.

3. PROFILE OF TYPICAL CLAIMANT WOULD BE 25 - 30 YEAR OLD
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IRANIAN ADMITTED AS STUDENT SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE IN STUDENT STATUS AT PRESENT. AS A MEMBER OF ISA HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN ANTI-SHAH DEMONSTRATIONS, CLAIMS THAT SAVAK HAS MEMBERS INFILTRATING MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS, HAS THEREFORE PROBABLY BEEN IDENTIFIED AND IS KNOWN AS DISSIDENT TO GOI. FAMILY IN IRAN MAY HAVE BEEN QUERIED AS TO WHEN HE WILL RETURN. HE MAY ALSO REFER TO

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UNNAMED FRIENDS IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES WHO DISAPPEARED
AFTER RETURNING TO IRAN. IN VIEW OF ALL THIS HE FEELS
HE HAS A VALID CLAIM TO REFUGEE STATUS IN THE U.S.

4. IN ORDER TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN EVALUATING REQUESTS
AND DEVELOPING BALANCE AND OBJECTIVE JUDGEMENTS, WE WILL
APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON WHETHER SUCH STUDENTS ARE
LIABLE TO PROSECUTION FOR VIOLATION OF IRANIAN LA'
PROHIBITING CRITICISM OF SHAH. IF SO, HAVE SUCH PROSE-
CUTIONS TAKEN PLACE IN PAST AND WHAT WERE SENTENCES?
HAVE FAMILIES OF THOSE STUDENTS BEEN HARASSED OR
OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO UNWELCOME ATTENTION ON PART OF GOI?
WOULD SUCH INDIVIDUALS HAVE A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF PER-
SECUTION FOR REASON OF RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY,
POLITICAL OPINION, OR MEMBERSHIP OF A PARTICULAR SOCIAL
GROUP IN THE EVENT THEY WERE RETURNED TO IRAN? VANCE

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